GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1152
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003
DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OF COAL
PARSURAM MAJHI;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decline in the production of coal in various locations in the country during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of coal from underground mines has declined over the years;

(d) if so, whether there is a stagnation in the production of superior grade coals like coking coal of grade A and non-coking grade B coal;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Union Government have reviewed its impact on the coal users; and

g) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of the above grades of coal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a)&(b): Production of coal has been less in 2002-03 than in 2001-02 only in the state of West Bengal. Details are as under:-

(in million tonnes)

State	Company	2001-02 (Actual)	2002-03 (Actual)
West Bengal	ECL	17.31	16.17
	BCCL	0.57	0.60
	TOTAL	17.88	16.77

Reason for less production in 2002-03 are exhaustion of extractable reserve in some mines and land acquisition problem.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e): Production of superior quality coking coal has declined due to exhaustion of reserves. In respect of grade "B" non-coking coal production is planned to increase from 21.81 million tonnes in 2002-03 to 25.16 million tonnes in 2006-07. There is no category of grade "A" coking coal.

(f)&(g): Indian coal, by virtue of its drift origin, is generally having high ash content as coal matter is intimately mixed with mineral matter during formation stage. Further reserve of low ash content coking and non- coking coal is very limited in India. However, consumers are free to import superior grade of coking coal and non- coking coal grade A & B as coal is under Open General Licence. Due to depletion of reserves of superior quality of coking coal increase in production of this coal is limited. However, some reserves of metallurgical coking coal locked under the Dhanbad-Patherdih Railway line can be available after this line is dismantled. Apart from this three new projects having washery grade coking coal have been planned at Bermo Opencast and Topa Opencast during 10th Plan and Kedla Opencast during 11th Plan period to increase the production.